

Claims

1. Use of an extract of *Bellis perennis* L. for the depigmentation of human skin.
2. Use of an extract of *Bellis perennis* L. for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for treating or preventing acquired or inherent hyperpigmentation.
3. Method for depigmentation of human skin comprising the application of a cosmetic composition to said skin, wherein said composition comprises a depigmenting effective amount of an extract of *Bellis perennis* L..
4. Use or method as defined in claim 2 or 3, wherein the composition is a cream, an ointment, an emulsion (milk), a tonic (lotion), stick, dispersion, a formulation comprising a tenside, a solution or a gel.
5. Use or method according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein the composition comprises at least one additional depigmentation agent, anti-inflammatory agent or antioxidant.
6. Method, use or composition according to any of claims 1-5, wherein the composition comprises between 1% (w/w) and 10% (w/w), more preferable between 2% (w/w) and 5% (w/w), and

most preferable 3% (w/w) extract of *Bellis perennis* L..

7. Use or method according to any one of claims 1-3 or 5-6 for the prevention, treatment or amelioration of hyperpigmentation selected from pigmented spots, lentigo senilis, freckles, ephelides, post inflammatory hyperpigmentation, pigmented keratosis, melasma and chloasma and hypopigmentation selected from vitiligo, piebaldism and leucoderma due to cicatrisation.
8. Process for the preparation of an extract of *Bellis perennis* L. comprising, maceration, percolation, decoction, soxleth extraction or digestion with an extraction medium selected from water, aqueous buffer, alcohols, alcohol water mixtures, glycols and glycol water mixtures, preferably selected from Dulbecco's phosphate buffer pH 7.2 (containing 8000 mg sodium chloride, 2000 mg potassium chloride, 1150 mg disodium hydrogenphosphate, 200 mg dipotassium phosphate per liter), or Sörensen phosphate buffer having a pH between about 5.0 and 8.0, preferably pH 5.0 (containing 0.06M potassium phosphate and 0.06M disodium phosphate) or citric acid buffers preferably selected from Sörensen citrate buffer, having a pH between about 1.2 and 5.0, preferably pH 3.0 (containing 0.1M sodium citrate and 0.1M HCl), preferably at elevated temperatures.
9. Process according to claim 8, whereby the process comprises decoction with a buffer selected from Dulbecco's phosphate buffer pH 7.2, Sörensen phosphate buffer pH 5.0 and Sörensen citrate buffer pH 3 at elevated temperatures, preferably at 100°C

for 1h.

10. Extract of *Bellis perennis* L. obtainable by the process according to claim 8 or 9.
11. Cosmetic or pharmaceutical composition comprising an extract of *Bellis perennis* L. according to claim 10.
12. Embodiment of any of the preceding claims, wherein the extract is prepared from fresh or dried plant material.
13. Embodiment of any of the preceding claims, wherein the extract is prepared from the whole plant or the flower heads of *Bellis perennis* L..